

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 02061 081257Z

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ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 ACDE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-14

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1897

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

S E C R E T VIENNA 2061

FROM US REP MBFR

E. O. 11652 : GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: INFORMAL SESSION WITH EASTERN REPS MARCH 7, 1974

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN FOUR AND ONE-HALF HOUR INFORMAL SESSION MARCH 7, ALLIES WERE REPRESENTED BY FRG REP, CANADIAN REP AND US REP, AND EAST BY SOVIET REPS KHLESTOV AND SMIRNOVSKY, GDR REP OESER AND POLISH REP STRULAK. EASTERN REPS SHOWED LESS FLEXIBILITY THAN IN PREVIOUS SESSION. THEY TOOK STRONG STAND AGAINST ALLIED PHASE I REDUCTION PROPOSAL AS WHOLLY INEQUITABLE TO EAST AND INSISTED ON PARTICIPATION BY ALL FROM OUTSET. THEY STRONGLY CRITICIZED WESTERN CLARIFICATIONS ABOUT PHASE II AS BEING ONLY A PROMISE TO START NEGOTIATIONS AND AS CONTAINING NO COMMITMENT AS TO WHERE AND HOW MUCH INDIVIDUAL WEST EUROPEAN STATES WOULD REDUCE.

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PAGE 02 VIENNA 02061 081257Z

2. EASTERN REPS MADE REPEATED DETERMINED EFFORTS TO PUSH THEIR

"REVISED SYMBOLIC PROPOSAL" FOR FIRST STAGE REDUCTIONS, STRESSING THAT (A) THERE WOULD BE ONLY GLOBAL CEILINGS ESTABLISHED FOR EACH SIDE, (B) EACH SIDE COULD DETERMINE OWN INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION OF REDUCTIONS AS LONG AS ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS REDUCED, (C) AGREEMENT COULD CONTAIN PROVISION STATING THAT BASIS OF REDUCTIONS USED FOR FIRST STAGE DID NOT ESTABLISH PRECEDENT FOR FUTURE, (D) THAT REDUCTIONS COULD BE AS LITTLE AS ONE PERCENT OF FORCES FOR EACH SIDE AND (3) THAT AGREEMENT COULD BE LIMITED IN TIME, PERHAPS TO ONE YEAR. NEGOTIATIONS WOULD CONTINUE IN THAT PERIOD

3. ALLIED REPS POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH THE IDEA OF A GLOBAL CEILING ON EACH SIDE MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR A SECOND PHASE AGREEMENT, EASTERN PROPOSAL WAS CLEARLY BASED ON ACCEPTANCE OF PRESENT RELATIONSHIP OF FORCES AND IGNORED NEED FOR THE REASSURANCE GIVEN BY PRIOR SOVIET-US REDUCTION PHASE.

4. IN ACCORDANCE WITH TACTICS APPROVED BY AD HOC GROUP, ALLIED REPS PRESSED EASTERN REPS ON NEED FOR EQUITABLE OUTCOME, ARGUED FOR COMMON CEILING AND ASKED EAST FOR FURTHER CLARIFICATIONS ON EASTERN ATTITUDE TOWARD COMMON CEILING. THEY REVIEWED ARGUMENTS ON WHY US AND SOVIETS SHOULD LEAD OFF WITH FIRST-PHASE REDUCTIONS AND WHY IT WAS LEGITIMATE FOR WESTERN EUROPEAN PARTICIPANTS TO WAIT UNTIL STAGE II. THEY CRITICIZED SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR AN INITIAL REDUCTION OF FOREIGN FORCES AS IMPLYING AN UNACCEPTABLE DISTINCTION BETWEEN UK AND REMAINDER OF WESTERN EUROPEAN PARTICIPANTS. ALLIED REPS SOUGHT TO DEVELOP EASTERN REMARKS IN PREVIOUS INFORMAL SESSION AS INDICATING EASTERN ACCEPTANCE OF CONCEPT OF PHASING, AGAIN SUMMARIZED POINTS WEST HAS MADE ABOUT PHASE II AND PARTICIPATION OF OTHER DIRECT PARTICIPANTS IN THAT PHASE, AND SAID THEY WERE UNWILLING TO MAKE FURTHER COMMITMENTS REGARDING WEST EUROPEAN PARTICIPATION IN REDUCTIONS UNLESS EAST WAS WILLING TO MAKE EQUIVALENT COMMITMENTS ON COMMON CEILING. THEY REVIEWED THE THREE SESSIONS WHICH HAD NOW TAKEN PLACE ON GROUND FORCES FOR INDICATIONS OF COMMON VIEWPOINTS, WHICH THEY STATED MIGHT BE FOUND IN TENTATIVE AGREEMENT ON MAGNITUDE OF US AND SOVIET REDUCTIONS AND OF BEGINNINGS OF UNDERSTANDING ON SUCCESSIVE PHASES OF NEGOTIATION.

5. EASTERN REPS HAD DIFFICULTY IN ANSWERING ALLIED QUESTIONS  
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PAGE 03 VIENNA 02061 081257Z

ON GENERAL CONCEPT OF COMMON CEILING AND AS TO WHETHER EAST HAD INDICATED AGREEMENT ON PHASING, BUT BACKED AWAY FROM BOTH CONCEPTS. EASTERN REPS ALSO DISTANCED THEMSELVES FROM SUGGESTION IN MARCH 4 INFORMAL SESSION THAT THERE MIGHT BE INITIAL REDUCTION STAGE OF ALL FORCES FROM OUTSIDE THE AREA. THEY REJECTED ALLIED CONTENTION THAT PROGRAMS OF BOTH SIDES INVOLVED REDUCTIONS OF APPROXIMATELY SAME MAGNITUDE. THEY INDICATED STABILIZING MEASURES 2, 3 AND 4 WERE NON-NEGOTIABLE.

6. NEXT INFORMAL SESSION WAS SET FOR MARCH 11. END SUMMARY.  
REMAINDER OF TEXT BEING SENT SEPTTEL. HUMES

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, EAST WEST MEETINGS, MUTUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS, NEGOTIATIONS, MEETING DELEGATIONS  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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